



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
August 10, 2005

Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney

Contact: Joseph N. Laplante
First Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 230-2350

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

HUDSON MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL WEAPON CHARGE

Re: United States v. Michael HUGHES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Hudson Police Chief Richard Gendron, and Cliff Ellston, the Resident Agent in Charge of the New Hampshire Office of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced today that **Michael Hughes**, 25, of Hudson, NH was sentenced on August 10, 2005, of federal weapon possession charges.

On March 30, 2005, HUGHES entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico to an information charging him with being a convicted felon in possession of a semi-automatic assault rifle at his Hudson residence on November 19, 2004.

At today's sentencing, Judge DiClerico imposed a sentence of 27 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which HUGHES' behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by DOJ's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted drug felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against HUGHES, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the Hudson Police Department, the N.H. Department of Corrections, and the U.S Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.